

our best standards, knowing that we are all imperfect but have an obligation to do our very best.

In the words of Lord Mansfield in a case heard in London in 1772 (*Somersett v. Stewart*, 12 Geo. 3), the issue was a profoundly moral one. A man had a slave in England he wished returned to Jamaica to sell. That would have been legal under American law at the time. It was not legal under English law. In an epic statement, Mansfield said, "Fiat justitia, ruat coelum"—"Let justice be done, though the heavens fall." But it also could be indicated, "If justice is done with sufficient regularity and moderation, the heavens need not fall. They might even rejoice in the nation that has shown a capacity for redemption and self-renewal."

So I wish to state my profound gratitude for what you have said and done, and hope we will listen to your wise counsel. I might just say it was in so many ways representative of the very best of our Old and New Testament heritage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I was somewhat hesitant to speak at this time because I didn't in any way want to make this a partisan series of speeches, but my effort here and my intent is to make it totally nonpartisan and bipartisan.

I won't say anything today about the specifics of the substance that the Senator from Connecticut addressed. I made my comments on this subject on Monday of this week at a press conference down the hall. But I listened carefully, very intently to what the Senator from Connecticut had to say. I don't think there was very much more or less in what he had to say than what I had said earlier. I think our desire and intent, and our wishes and hopes are both the same.

Instead, I want to talk today about the Senator from Connecticut. I expected no less than this from him. He is truly one of the Senators in this body that is always standing for the right thing, trying to make sure that we do have a moral compass as individuals, as an institution. I knew that at some point he would rise and put it all into the proper perspective and that he would not go too far, that he would make us stop and think—not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Senators and Americans—about the seriousness and the difficulties that have been caused by this situation. So I want to thank the Senator from Connecticut for what he had to say, and what he has had to say on many other occasions on other subjects, and for the leadership he has provided on children and the violence and the filth they are being exposed to, and the leadership and pressure he has exerted to try to get us as a country and those involved directly in providing those films, those scenes,

to do something about it. So I thank him.

I know it was not easy. I know he has taken time to think about it and pray about it for over about 3 weeks now. I know there was probably a lot of reason not to say anything. But I also know that his conscience dictated that he had to express himself. I commend him for it and I thank him for it.

I also appreciate the fact that Senator KERREY of Nebraska and the Senator from New York, Mr. MOYNIHAN, would come here and lend his support to what the Senator from Connecticut had to say. This very day, I had lunch with the Senator from New York. Maybe the American people do not realize that we are friends off this floor and that we enjoy each other's company. And we do travel together. We get to be together with our wives and sometimes even our children. But today at lunch, with Senator MACK of Florida, Senator ROTH of Delaware, we were joined by the Senator from New York. We talked about the very serious situation in Russia. Every time he joins us, I immediately want to raise a part of the world and say, "What about India and Pakistan?" or "What about that country or this situation?" He is such a fountain of knowledge and has a wealth of experience and a tremendous understanding of history and people. I found it very informative, and I have been dwelling on what he had to say about Russia this afternoon.

I think at times like this, when our Constitution is going to be reviewed again as to what it means and when we are going to have to make decisions about what to do when we are presented with a set of facts—which may be nothing—it is going to be so important that there are some men and women on both sides of the aisle in this body, and in the other body, that can reach across the aisle and say, "What do we do?" and, most important, "What is best for our country?" With these men, and with others in this Chamber here today such as Senator HATCH, Senator COATS, Senator NICKLES, and the great STROM THURMOND, I am sure we will find a way to rise above petty politics and do the right thing, and Senator LIEBERMAN will lead the way.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

#### PRAISING SENATOR LIEBERMAN

Mr. THURMOND. The Senator from Connecticut, who has just made some remarks, is one of the finest and ablest Members of this body. For as long as he has been in the Senate, and the longer I have dealt with him, I am more impressed with him. He is a member of the opposite party from me, but we can't go by party in deciding the merits of a man. We have to decide his own qualities. The Senator from Con-

necticut has impressed me as having the right qualities, which we all could emulate.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### GRATITUDE TO SENATORS LIEBERMAN, KERREY, AND MOYNIHAN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, in many respects, I have been pulling for the President to pull through this problem and one who had hoped that the speech he gave never would have had to have been given, and who still is very concerned about our country and how this matter is handled.

I want to express my gratitude to the distinguished Senator from Connecticut and my dear friends from Nebraska and New York, as well, for the moral compass that they have brought to the U.S. Senate floor this day, and really for the fine work they have done through the years in some of these very difficult matters.

When the distinguished Senator from Connecticut stands and speaks on these particular issues, he does so with authority because he has spoken out on so many moral issues in the past, and I think with good effect. I think it is important for all of us to reserve judgment on these matters until we have the report of Judge Starr. At that time, we can look at it and make determinations as to what should be done. There is no question that the President has been embarrassed by some of the things that have happened. There is also no question that these are difficult times for him, his wife, his daughter, and others in the administration—frankly, for all of us. Let's hope that we can approach this matter with kindness and deliberation and do the things that really need to be done in this area and, again, as the majority leader said, do what is in the best interest of our country. That may give us a number of alternatives that may be very just and worthwhile and beneficial to the country. Let's hope we choose the right path.

In any event, I express my gratitude to these members of the other party because I know how difficult it is for them to come to the floor and speak on this issue. I respect them for having done so. It is a difficult set of issues, and certainly I feel very deeply about them as well. I express my gratitude.

#### THE BANKRUPTCY REFORM BILL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am extremely disappointed in my good friend and colleague from Massachusetts, who has chosen to object to even proceeding to the bankruptcy reform legislation. The fact is that this Grassley-Durbin legislation has broad bipartisan support. This particular bill passed the Judiciary Committee with a 16-2 vote.

This piece of consensus legislation reflects the tireless efforts of both